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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

April 8, 2004

Contact: UM's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, (406) 243-2988.

MANSFIELD CONFERENCE EXAMINES GLOBALIZATION IN CHINA

MISSOULA —

The 20th Annual Mansfield Conference at The University of Montana will investigate the positive and negative impacts of globalization on the life, development and society of contemporary China.

"Plunging Into the Sea: The Complex Face of Globalization in China" will be held Sunday through Tuesday, April 18-20, at various campus venues. The conference is free and open to the public.

The event will bring together 14 top experts from the United States and China to explore four areas where globalization has had a dramatic influence: Chinese economic development, politics and human rights, the environment, and popular culture and society.

"Globalization was chosen as our theme because it is associated with problems -- including job flight and environmental degradation -- that remain very important to many Americans," said Terry Weidner, Mansfield Center director and conference organizer. "But it also offers a great vehicle to look at the China 'behind the headlines' -- a nation where nearly all facets of life have been influenced by rapid change."

Globalization has played an increasing role in China's economic development since Deng Xiaoping's 1978 decision to "jump into the sea" -- that is, to reform and open China to

-more-

the outside world. Then in 2001 China joined the World Trade Organization, lowering some of the last barriers to global economic forces.

Conference experts will discuss how WTO has helped feed prosperity in China, as well as how China has committed to make concessions as a price of WTO membership. These concessions may expose some of China's poorest industrial and rural areas to brutal competition and potentially wrenching change.

For more information, visit www.umt.edu/mansfield or call (406) 243-2988. The conference is sponsored by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, the UM Foundation and the Burlington Northern Sante Fe Foundation, with support from the Montana World Affairs Council and the Montana United Nations Association.

The mission of UM's Mansfield Center is to create a better understanding of our interdependent world -- one in which three out of every five people is Asian.

Following is list of conference events:

Sunday, April 18

7:30-9:15 p.m. -- Opening keynote address: "Globalization and the Chinese Environment" by Jim Harkness, chief representative in China for the World Wildlife Fund, Montana Theatre.

Monday, April 19

11:45 a.m.-noon -- Welcoming remarks by UM President George Denmsion and Mansfield Center Director Terry Weidner, Turner Hall Dell Brown Room.

Noon-12:30 p.m. -- "Globalization: The 'Big Picture'" by Jill Belsky of the Bolle Center for People and Forests, Dell Brown Room.

12:30-2:45 p.m. -- "Panel One: Globalization and the Chinese Political Environment," Dell Brown Room. Discussion topics are "Big Picture Forces in Chinese Politics," "Law, the State and the Emergence of a Nonprofit Sector in China," "Changes in the PRC Media,"

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“Globalization and Human Rights in China” and “Labor as a Political Force in China?”

3-5 p.m. -- “Panel Two: Globalization and the Chinese Economy,” Dell Brown Room. Topics are “Globalization and the Reform of China’s Economy,” “Global Forces and Chinese Urban Labor,” “U.S. Agricultural Trade With China: A Local Perspective” and “A Rock and a Hard Place: WTO and Chinese Agriculture.”

7:30-8:45 p.m. -- Second keynote address: “Civil Society, Globalization and the State: China in Comparative Perspective” by Mark Sidel, law associate professor at the University of Iowa and research fellow at the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, Montana Theatre.

Tuesday, April 20

12:30-2:30 p.m. -- “Panel Three: Globalization and the Environment in China,” Dell Brown Room. Topics are “An Analysis of Globalization and China’s Environment: The Case of Western China,” “International NGOs and the Domestic Politics of Sustainable Development in China,” “Market Forces in Northwest China: Ecological Constraints, Government Policies and the Concept of Wealth” and “Can the Environment Survive the Chinese Craze for Automobiles?”

2:45-4:30 p.m. -- “Panel Four: Globalization and Popular Society/Culture,” Dell Brown Room. Topics are “Localities as Branded Culture Centers Under Globalization,” “China’s New Youth Culture,” “Visual Culture and Consumerism in Urban China” and “What Happened to China’s Proletariat? The Socialist Working Class in China’s Transition.”

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